

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2005

ECO HAB-Pacific Northwest Research Cruise Departs Elliot Bay



Pier 66 – The downtown Seattle waterfront bustles with summer activity. The Space Needle elevator zooms up and down. Hawaiian shirts parade through Pike Place Market. Traffic roars along the double-decker highway against a backdrop of crooked zipper skyscrapers.

The R/V Melville stands proud, tied to the dock with wrist-thick lines. This sleek, 2,516-ton research vessel (nearly as long as the Qwest football stadium) is being prepared for its next assignment - a 3-week voyage to the open Pacific.

Follow the day-to-day events
of scientists and crew with
Science Education Asea
The SEA Times

www.nwfsc.noaa.gov/hab/outreach/seatimes.htm

Swirl into the Juan de Fuca eddy!

Learn about how you are connected to phytoplankton!

Experience the hard work, dedication, sunrises and
sunsets, and camaraderie of life at sea with an
international team of scientists and crew.

ECO HAB PNW is a 5-year multi-disciplinary project that will study the physiology, toxicology, ecology and oceanography of toxic *Pseudo-nitzschia* species off the Pacific Northwest coast.

For more information, visit the ECO HAB-PNW website at: <http://www.ecohabpnw.org>

ECO HAB is funded by NOAA and NSF.



The SEA Times is made possible by the West Coast Center for Oceans and Human Health and ECO HAB.

Educator Stows Away

Seattle, WA - Sunglasses hold back strands of wispy blonde hair. Deborah McArthur stares up at the solid ship, "This is the real Cousteau," she says with a twinkle in her eye, shoveling down the last of her Ivar's clam chowder. "The open sea is calling. Let's go Melville!"

Deborah grew up on the west coast, staring longingly through Los Angeles



smog at the Pacific Ocean. "Occasionally it would be clear enough to see Catalina

Island 25-miles off-shore," she says. "My mother always told me to look for the green flash at sunset. It took me 22-years to finally see it on a cool, cloudless autumn horizon – not in L.A."

The ECO HAB research cruise welcomes Deb to the decks of the Melville. She coordinates education activities at NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center and the West Coast Center for Oceans and Human Health. She's excited to document the dynamic science of this voyage and the rhythm of life at sea.

"I'm on a life-long quest for knowledge and adventure," she says. "These experiences produce stories that are like pearls I can share with young people."

We asked Deborah what she expects will be the best part of the cruise: "I'm bringing a bag of cookies and a chocolate bar for each day of the trip. The farther you get from a store, the better they taste! And I can't wait to see the diversity of phytoplankton that's out there!"

